Amount Spent on Freedom Fighters' Pension

7789. SHRI MISA R. GANESAN:
SHRI J.S. RAJU:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 717 given in the Rajya Sabha on 8th December, 1993 and state:

(a) what is the amount spent per year on payment of freedom fighters' pension;

(b) how many new applications were received till February, 1994 and how many have been disposed off; and how many are yet to be disposed;

(c) how many freedom fighters are awaiting payment of pension in Tamil Nadu and what steps have been taken to disburse the pension amounts to them; and

(d) by when these applications will be disposed of and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) (a) Expenditure on payment of freedom fighters' pension varies from year to year. The reported expenditure on this account during the financial year 1993-94 was Rs. 88.47 crores.

(b) and (c) During the financial year 1993-94, 2,163 applications for grant of pension were received for consideration of the Central Government. All except 289 applications have already been considered and appropriate decisions communicated to the applicants. Out of 289 pending applications, 20 pertain to applicants from the State of Tamil Nadu.

(d) All applications for grant of pension are examined in accordance with the eligibility criteria prescribed under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980 in the shortest possible time. Since receipt and disposal of such claims is a continous process, it is not possible to prescribe a definite time schedule for their disposal.

Freedom Fighters' Pensions in Arunachal Pradesh

7790. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many freedom fighters are drawing their pensions from Government in Arunachal Pradesh; and

(b) how many applications from Arunachal Pradesh are pending for sanction of freedom fighter pension?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) (a) and (b) As per the information received from the Government of Arunachal Pradesh, no freedom fighter in that State is drawing pension from Government. No such applications are, at present, pending with the Central Government.

Export Status in respect of Supply of Goods to Public Sector

7791. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have withdrawn the deemed export status in respect of supplies of goods, raw materials and components etc. to ONGC, OIL and GAIL for their offshore and onshore exploration, drilling and production operation by indigenous manufacturers;

(b) if so, whether this would result in orders being placed on the foreign supplies and closure of the indigenous industry and large number of skilled personnel losing their jobs;

(c) whether ONGC, OIL and GAIL are paying in same currency to both indigenous manufacturers and foreign suppliers; if so, what will be its effect on India's foreign exchange reserves;

(d) whether Government have issued